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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PUBLICATIONS

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NO. 14.—THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

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# THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

DECEMBER 31, 1917

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE *for the* PREVENTION *of* BLINDNESS, INC.  
130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PUBLICATIONS

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF BLINDNESS, INC.

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DECEMBER 31, 1917

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130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
American Medical Association.....	9
Auditor's report.....	31
Buffalo Study .....	17, 26
Census of causes of blindness.....	12, 13
Correspondence.....	8
Exhibits.....	14
Field work.....	19
Financial statement.....	32
Illumination.....	17
Industrial accidents.....	23
Lantern slides.....	15
Lectures.....	14, 29
Legislation.....	12
Managing Director's report.....	7
Members and donors.....	33
Midwives.....	18
News Letter.....	16
New York State Committee.....	5, 30
Official Directory.....	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum.....	11, 12, 41, 45
Publications.....	15
Secretary's report.....	11
Treasurer's statement.....	32
Wood alcohol.....	17

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# NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, INC.

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NEW YORK

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† The National and New York State Committees have the same Treasurer and treasury, but donations are received for either or for both, and for general or specific purposes.

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NEW YORK

130 East Twenty-second Street

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVEN-  
TION OF BLINDNESS

1917

The year has brought to the Committee a great loss in the passing away of our honorary vice-president, Honorable Joseph H. Choate. Vitally interested in the amelioration of the condition of the blind, and for years active in support of this work in New York City, he became at once deeply concerned in the undertakings of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness when its organization was effected. At the first annual meeting he presided, contributing to the occasion the delightful charm of his personality, and through his address lending the support of his great mind and heart to the Committee's work. It was characteristic of this great man that he should to the very last of his long life of useful service be giving himself to helping the cause of human betterment.

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Each year of the life of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness has been marked by a **special emphasis** upon one of the phases of its work. Accidents to the eyes in industrial occupations have been studied intensively in the third year of the Committee's life as now organized. Trachoma as a menace to the individual and the nation occupied the center of attention in our second year, as inflammation of the eyes of the new-born had done in our first year. It is not to be understood from these remarks that any one subject has so engrossed us as to interfere with effective work in all lines. Reports of the Secretary and Field Secretary detail in a most interesting way the activities of 1917.

**Correspondence** has grown enormously, and from the ends of the earth, as well as from every quarter of this country, have come calls for advice and assistance. Our function as a bureau of information has steadily developed in importance. Reputation for carefulness in investigations and accuracy in promulgating information has given the Committee such standing that its statements are very generally accepted as authoritative.

Of the **publications** of the year the most ambitious are the result of the Buffalo Study, an investigation into the conditions in a typical American city, which, reported upon, will call general attention to what any city may do for the conservation of vision of its people. "Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations" is a pamphlet of 145 pages, profusely illustrated, which is sure to be recognized as the compendium of useful information on this important subject. Our Field Secretary is the author. As Buffalo has had great success in controlling ophthalmia neonatorum, our Secretary's pamphlet, "Saving Sight a Civic Duty," describing the great work done in that city, is offered as a vade mecum for health departments in cities and towns everywhere.

"Bright Eyes—How to Keep Them Shining," is the catchy title of an eight-page leaflet prepared for Baby Week. It calls attention to some of the common dangers to eyes of children and was widely used.

Our **annual summary** of statistics, gathered from schools for the blind, which is taken as some indication of how the educational propaganda of a dozen years is affecting the situation as regards children's blindness, shows a slight reduction over last year's report, and the encouraging fact that eleven years of work have seen a diminution in the percentage of children entering the schools for the blind because of eyes destroyed by inflammation of the new-born from 28.19 per cent. in 1906-7 to 18.4 per cent. in 1916-17.

**War has had its effect** in our field of endeavor for improving the condition of the people. In England an alarming increase of ophthalmia neonatorum shows that the relaxation of care in one phase of public health work has resulted disastrously. A warning is thus served upon our people that will be heeded, let us hope.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Our Field Secretary was called on to serve as lecturer to the soldiers in the army camps by authority of the Surgeon General's Department, and entered upon that work. But so deeply was the need of a more intimate and complete service to the soldiers borne in upon Mr. Berry by his experience in this camp work that he volunteered for service in France with the Y. M. C. A. and was immediately accepted.

**The New York State Committee** for the Prevention of Blindness, a standing committee of this organization, proceeds upon its way of active and effective educational work in New York, under the leadership of Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler. A notable contribution to the effort for sight saving is the invention, by the Secretary, of a series of talks to mothers and to the Little Mothers' Leagues, in which she has adapted fairy tales and folk stories to the carrying of our message to those who need most to hear it.

**The American Medical Association** held its annual meeting in New York in June, 1917. The Section on Ophthalmology provided for the continuance of the Sub-Committee on Conservation of Vision of the Council of Public Health and Instruction, Dr. Frank Allport, Chairman, with Dr. Walter B. Weidler, of New York, as local acting chairman, its work to be done through the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. It is gratifying that we may have the privilege of thus serving the Association.

**Our membership** has increased by steady additions month by month, until practically every state in the Union is represented on our list. England, Canada, China, and the Philippine Islands contribute members, and our mailing list of interested and inquiring people shows Alaska, Hawaii, Panama, Porto Rico, Mexico, India, Scotland, South America, and New Zealand to be conscious of our existence and confident of our usefulness.

**Incorporation of the Committee** was determined on early in the year, and the necessary steps were taken to effect this important change in the status of the organization. Henceforth the legal title of the Committee will include the abbreviation of the word "incorporated." The Board of Directors is now empowered to receive legacies.

This Report, in respect of the financial statements, covers a

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

period of fifteen months, as it was deemed best to make our **fiscal year** coincide with the calendar year.

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To learn all we can about how to prevent blindness and to conserve vision, to promote legislation and to create sentiment for attaining our laudable purposes, and to spread knowledge of this important work are the aims which we keep constantly in view. We measure our success in terms of our activity; doing the work which our hands find to do we keep busy, and year by year the opportunities grow. To seize all opportunities for service that we possibly can is our purpose for the future.

EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE,  
*Managing Director.*

December 31, 1917.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

MR. EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE, Managing Director,  
National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

*Dear Sir:* Permit me to submit the report of the work of the Secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness for the period of fourteen months, November 1, 1916, to December 31, 1917.

The rejection of many recruits for eye defects and eye diseases at home and abroad came as a great surprise to the people of the United States. The fact that a certain percentage of these troubles might have been prevented, corrected, or cured, had proper attention been given to them, awakened the country to a realization that there was need for concerted effort to prevent a repetition of similar conditions.\*

From practically every state in the Union requests for information, literature, slides, exhibits, methods, and plans began to flood the office of the Secretary, and a large part of her time has been devoted to supplying this demand.

The great increase of ophthalmia neonatorum in England in 1916 shocked Baby Week committees into relentless activity. To meet the request for new, simple, virile material, the Secretary prepared a special baby week pamphlet, "Bright Eyes—How to Keep Them Shining," illustrated by pictures of real babies. The first edition of 20,000 copies was exhausted before it came from the press, and two subsequent editions of 20,000 copies each were required to meet the demand for material for the National Baby Week. One teachers' institute alone ordered 10,000 copies.

Every available exhibit and slide made itself felt, but because of the limited number so many requests had to be refused that the executive staff immediately set to work on a new exhibit on ophthalmia neonatorum to be issued in poster form, and to be available in addition to the stock of lantern slides and exhibits, so that henceforth no baby week campaign need be unsupplied.

\* See Report of Field Secretary, page 28.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Nor were the Baby Week committees the only ones whose pulses were quickened; health officers, county fair committees, schools, colleges, universities—all felt the seriousness of the situation as never before, and made every effort to have the matter of conservation of sight brought before their communities and student bodies. Schools of philanthropy and civic centers throughout the country began to include a study of the problem in their curricula. The Secretary has given every possible assistance in suggesting ways and means for bringing about the best results.

### CENSUS OF CAUSES OF BLINDNESS AMONG PUPILS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND

The annual census of schools for the blind has been made and the results tabulated as shown on page 13.

When, in 1908, the work of preventing blindness from "Babies' Sore Eyes" was begun in New York State by the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (now a standing committee of the national organization), the percentage of those admitted to schools for the blind for the first time who had lost their sight from this disease was 26.5 per cent. It is gratifying to note that there has been a decrease of 8.1 per cent. That 18.4 per cent. of the pupils admitted for the first time in 1916-1917 are blind from this cause shows that continuing and more intensive effort is necessary to combat this disease. Many states still have very inadequate laws, and those having satisfactory legislation cannot afford to rest upon this fact. Stringent enforcement is the necessary sequel to legislative action.

### NEW LEGISLATION

Three states, Delaware, Minnesota, and North Carolina, have passed laws relating to ophthalmia neonatorum.

**Delaware Law.**—Ophthalmia neonatorum made a reportable disease (six hours). Physicians, midwives, and other persons in attendance upon cases of childbirth are required to use some prophylactic; to make record of the prophylactic used, and to indorse the details thereof on every birth certificate.



PROPORTION OF PUPILS BLIND FROM OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM IN THIRTY-ONE STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND—  
1916-1917

	Total pupils 1916-1917	Total pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.	New Ad- missions	New pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.
Alabama.....	111	40	36.0	25	9	36.0
California.....	95	18	18.9	22	8	36.3
Colorado.....	43	11	25.5	11	0	0
Connecticut.....	46	11	23.9	6	3	50.0
Florida.....	45	23	51.1	..	..	..
Idaho.....	19	3	15.7	5	0	0
Indiana.....	133	13	9.7	17	5	29.4
Iowa.....	129	30	23.2	19	4	21.0
Kansas.....	..	..	..	20	1	5.0
Kentucky.....	135	33	24.4	14	3	21.4
Maryland.....	109	29	26.6	10	1	10.9
Massachusetts.....	293	79	26.9	47	11	23.4
Missouri.....	120	30	25.0	29	6	20.6
Montana.....	26	2	7.6	..	..	..
Nebraska.....	56	1	1.7	7	1	14.2
New Mexico.....	58	26	44.8	18	8	44.4
New York (Batavia).....	182	44	24.1	29	7	24.1
New York Institute (New York City).....	121	27	22.3	11	1	9.0
North Carolina.....	..	..	..	56	4	7.1
North Dakota.....	31	6	19.3	4	1	25.0
Ohio.....	243	66	27.1	32	6	18.7
Pennsylvania (Over- brook).....	234	77	32.4	32	10	31.2
W. Penn. (Pittsburgh).....	136	58	42.6	19	8	42.1
South Dakota.....	26	5	19.2	5	2	40.0
Tennessee.....	224	33	14.7	51	2	3.9
Texas.....	70	25	35.7	18	4	22.2
Utah.....	44	10	22.7	14	1	7.1
Vermont.....	6	5	83.3	..	..	..
Virginia.....	82	6	7.3	8	1	12.5
Wisconsin.....	144	31	21.5	29	2	6.8
	2,961	742	25.0	558	109	19.5
Pupils in Classes for the Blind in public school systems:						
Chicago.....	49	16	32.6	11	3	27.2
Detroit.....	37	9	24.3	16	1	6.2
Jersey City.....	10	2	20.0	2	0	0
Milwaukee.....	64	14	21.8	17	0	0
New York City.....	209*	9	4.3	42	5	11.7
Racine, Wisconsin.....	6	4	66.6	1	1	100.0
	375	54	14.4	89	10	11.2
GRAND TOTAL.....	3,336	796	23.8	647	119	18.4

\* Includes also pupils in Classes for Conservation of Vision.

PROPORTION OF PUPILS NEWLY ADMITTED TO SCHOOLS FOR  
THE BLIND DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, WHO ARE BLIND  
FROM OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

School year	No. of schools	Total new admissions	Pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.
1907-8.....	10	290	77	26.5
1908-9.....	14	300	68	22.6
1909-10.....	13	325	67	20.6
1910-11.....	15	351	84	23.9
1911-12.....	24	415	88	21.2
1912-13.....	21	386	88	22.7
1913-14.....	19	428	84	19.6
1914-15.....	28	602	91	15.1
1915-16.....	35	666	127	19.0
1916-17.....	34	647	119	18.4

Some of the other causes of blindness in the above total of 3,336 blind pupils enrolled 1916-17 are shown by the following:

Blind from Accident 341; from Progressive Nearsightedness 121; from Trachoma 56; from Interstitial Keratitis 189; from Optic Nerve Atrophy 334; from other Congenital Defects 947; from Wood Alcohol Poisoning 1.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Minnesota and North Carolina laws\* are referred to in the report of the Field Secretary.

California has passed a law relating to the use of the roller towel;† also, an "Act for the Regulation of the Practice of Midwifery in the State of California by Others than Legally Authorized Physicians and Surgeons, and for the Appointment of a Board of Examiners in Midwifery in the Matter of Said Regulation."

Illinois has passed a law relating to the sale of wood alcohol.‡

### LECTURES

The Secretary has assisted in carrying out the educational work of the Committee by arranging for lectures, other than those given by the Field Secretary in his state campaigns. Heretofore most of this educational work has been arranged for adults, or boys and girls of high-school age. There seems, however, to be no good reason why children should not learn to care for their own eyes, hence the Secretary has instituted special talks for the younger generation.

During the fourteen months covered by this report 145 lectures have been given to audiences aggregating 24,160 people.

### EXHIBITS

The use of exhibit material has not been limited to Baby Week campaigns: it has been in demand at all seasons. The original exhibit on Industrial Eye Accidents commanded much attention at the Annual Conference of Charities and Correction (now National Conference of Social Work) held in Pittsburgh, the Third Annual Industrial Safety Exposition of Ohio, held in Columbus, and the State Fair held in Des Moines, Iowa. It is now on exhibition at the American Museum of Safety, New York City.

Exclusive of the posters on industrial eye accidents, 355 panels of the general exhibit material have been used in 32 cities, representing 25 states, also in Montreal, Canada.

\* Given in full in Appendix, pages 41-46.

† Given in full in Appendix, pages 46-47.

‡ See Appendix, page 46.



## SLIDES

In the fourteen months, 12,952 slides of the Committee have been used in 96 cities, representing 29 states, also in Montreal, Canada, and in Shanghai, China.

So great has been the demand that it was practically impossible to keep in stock sets for the use of physicians giving popular lectures on the subject of conservation of sight. The Committee, therefore, arranged, through the coöperation of its ophthalmologists, ten sets each consisting of sixty slides to be devoted entirely to this purpose.

Sets of the Committee's slides have been used by various universities in connection with the work of the Bureau of Visual Instruction, the slides being sent out on the general state circuit.

## PUBLICATIONS

That the work of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness is becoming widely known and appreciated, not only throughout the United States, but in far-away countries, is evidenced by the demand for literature from all parts of the globe. The Royal Commission of Holland requested special literature and advice looking toward legislative action to prevent needless blindness in that country. England, making a strenuous effort to prevent infant blindness and mortality, has made use of the committee's publications. Long-distance calls have come from India, Egypt, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines; South America, Cuba, Hawaii, and Mexico have been well represented on the growing list of those coming into closer touch with the organization.

The following is the list of publications distributed and sold:

## PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED

National Publications.....	144,212
New York State Publications.....	6,859
Total.....	151,071

## PUBLICATIONS SOLD

National Publications.....	51,350
New York State Publications.....	2,000
Total.....	53,350
Grand total.....	204,421

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness has issued the following new publications:

	COPIES
No. 10. Bright Eyes—How to Keep Them Shining . .	81,181
No. 11. Second Annual Report . . . . .	3,000
No. 12. Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations—A Report of Typical Cases and Conditions, with Recommendations for Safe Practice . . . . .	3,000
No. 13. Saving Sight a Civic Duty—A Demonstration by the Public Health Department of Buffalo of How a Typical City Conserves the Vision of Its Future Citizens . . . . .	3,000
News Letter Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 . . . . .	3,000 to 4,000 each
State No. 16. Eighth Annual Report, New York State Committee . . . . .	1,020

The following publications have been reprinted:

No. 1. Common Causes of Blindness in Children . . . .	17,175
No. 2. Care of Your Eyes—A Message to You . . . . .	5,000
No. 3. Directions for the Prevention of Blindness from Babies' Sore Eyes . . . . .	7,000
No. 4. Photographic Exhibits and Slides on Babies' Sore Eyes, Midwives, Wood Alcohol, Trachoma, Industrial Eye Accidents . . . . .	5,000
No. 5. What Women's Clubs and Nursing Organizations Can Do to Prevent Blindness . . . . .	13,000
State No. 8. Trachoma . . . . .	2,000

Besides the articles reported by the Field Secretary, the following publications have appeared:

The Eyes of the New-Born, *Midwives' Journal*, March, 1917, Winifred Hathaway.

Campaign of the Committee for the Prevention of Blindness for Conserving Sight, Report of the Babies' Welfare Association, July 7, 1917, Winifred Hathaway.

What University Extension Centers are Doing to Conserve Sight—to be published by the *American Journal of Sociology*, Winifred Hathaway.

Brief History of the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (appeared in connection with "Saving the Seventh Baby"), *Delineator*, December, 1917, Winifred Hathaway.

In addition to the above, the Secretary has prepared press notices and has collected data for articles appearing in various magazines and newspapers. The Committee's cuts and photographs have been extensively used.

WE GLASSES  
SAVED HIS EYES

A. Andersen  
By

BOTH EYES SUES FOR LOSS  
ARE BURNED OF HIS EYESIGHT

Nichols Loses Sight

Charles Mc  
Action

SWAY HAS EYE  
REMOVED HERE

EMPLOYEE WANTS  
\$20,000 FOR LOSS EYE

WILL MOULDER MAY LOSE  
SIGHT OF ONE EYE

WOOD ALCOHOL'S USE  
CAUSE OF BLINDNESS

FOR LOSS OF EYE

TOUCHES A LIVE  
WIRE, MAY LOSE EYE SIGHT

HOPE TO SAVE  
EYE BURNED

BY CHEMICAL

ACCIDENT MAY COST  
HARVEY AN EYE  
\$20,000 FOR EYE

EMPLOYEE AT STEEL  
PLANT IS BURNED

YOUNG MAN LOSES  
EYE OPENING

BALED COTT

IN BAD ACCIDENT  
Hospital — Glass Found  
in the Iris.

LOSES AN EYE IN  
A MILL ACCIDENT

MAIL DRIVEN INTO  
EVELETH MAN'S EYE

HIS POISONED  
DRINKS BLIND  
CUSTOMER

"ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK"



## SPECIAL STUDIES

The Secretary has made two intensive studies since the last annual report of the Committee.

The first of these grew out of correspondence inquiries as to the inclusion of health courses in university extension centers. A canvass was made of 200 colleges and universities having extension courses, and the results of the study presented in a paper given before the Annual Conference of the American Association of School Hygiene held in Albany, June 7, 8, and 9, 1917.

The second study was of a more intensive nature, and was made for the purpose of presenting a model plan for the conservation of vision of children in towns and cities. The city of Buffalo was selected as a typical community because of its clean bill of health, its very active contributions to health measures, preventive and curative, its immigration problem, and its willingness to coöperate in making such a study possible. The results of this intensive work have been published by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness as Publication No. 13, *Saving Sight a Civic Duty—A Demonstration by the Public Health Department of Buffalo of How a Typical City Conserves the Vision of its Future Citizens.*

## WOOD ALCOHOL

The urgent need for educating the people to an understanding of the menace of wood alcohol is constantly being brought before the public by cases of blindness or death occasioned either by drinking this poison or inhaling its fumes.

In New York city alone 9 cases of poisoning from this source have been called to the attention of the Secretary. Of these, 6 of the victims died within a few hours, 2 became totally blind, and 1 suffered deterioration of sight.

Even the passage of more effective laws and stricter enforcement will not combat this evil unless the people know the danger and coöperate in preventing it. Every lecture arranged by this Committee has included a brief presentation of this menace.

## ILLUMINATION

The coöperation of the Illuminating Engineering Society has, as in the past, been of very great value to the Committee.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Through its courtesy, the results of an intensive study made by that society, "The Code of Lighting School Buildings," has been made available to members of the Committee and other interested persons.

So important is the question of illumination in conservation of vision that a standing committee has been appointed by the national organization to which all questions relative to this subject may be referred. The Committee, composed of two ophthalmologists and one illuminating engineer, has already proved of invaluable assistance.

### MIDWIVES

The Secretary has made a census of the present status of the midwife and midwifery conditions of licensing, registering, training, etc., in the 48 states of the Union. That some advance has been made is shown by the activity of communities in a few states, notably California, Louisiana, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Washington.

Many states still feel that the easiest solution of the problem is to ignore it, but the time is surely coming when public opinion will no more tolerate the untrained midwife than the untrained physician. The Secretary has assisted several committees who are desirous of hastening that day.

### REPRESENTATION

The Secretary has represented the Committee at conventions, congresses, and committee meetings of various organizations and has prepared papers and statistics for their programs.

As Secretary of the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (a standing committee of the national organization), she has carried on intensive work in the state, similar to the larger work of the nation.

The close of the year marks no stopping-place in the activities of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The Secretary looks forward to a steady onward march, strengthened by the experiences of the past and encouraged by the vision of future usefulness.

Respectfully submitted this thirty-first day of December, 1917.

WINIFRED HATHAWAY,

*Secretary.*



## REPORT OF THE FIELD SECRETARY

MR. EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE, Managing Director,  
National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

*Dear Sir:* I beg to submit the following report upon my work as Field Secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The report in this instance covers a period of fourteen (14) months, from November 1, 1916, to December 31, 1917.

The last report covering the field work of the Committee—to November 1, 1916—was made at a time when we were in the midst of a campaign in the state of North Carolina, looking to the passage of adequate legislation for the prevention of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum. The effort in that state was completely successful, culminating in the enactment by The General Assembly, Session of 1917, of "An Act to Prevent Blindness in Infancy, Designating Certain Powers and Duties and Otherwise Providing for the Enforcement of this Act."\*

The success of this campaign was largely due to the efforts of the Conservation of Vision Committee of the State Medical Society of North Carolina. The members of that Committee, Dr. R. H. Lewis, Chairman, Raleigh; Dr. W. H. Rankin, Secretary, North Carolina State Board of Health; Dr. C. W. Banner, Greensboro; Dr. Louise Merrimon-Perry, Asheville, and Mr. John E. Ray, Superintendent, North Carolina State School for the Deaf and the Blind, gave generously of their time and experience in the preparation of the bill and in the furtherance of all endeavors which might make for its passage. The coöperation of the North Carolina State Board of Health afforded material aid in securing the desired result. Due to the efforts of these organizations and the individual members thereof, your Field Secretary was given many opportunities for advance publicity work, lecture engagements, conferences, etc. It is most gratifying to find that during the entire campaign there was made

\* See Appendix, pages 41-44.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

evident practically no opposition to the bill. The editorial comment from all sections of the state was universally favorable, and the attitude of physicians and laymen presaged the favorable action taken by the state legislators.

In the second annual report of the Field Secretary there was included his lecture itinerary to November 1, 1916. Subsequent to that date illustrated lectures were given to general audiences, to assemblies of normal, college, and high-school students, and to small groups (in connection with the State Board of Health Exhibits at many of the local and county fairs) until November 12, 1916, on which date the intensive field work in North Carolina came to a close. In addition to the appointments previously reported, lectures were given in Charlotte, Asheville, Canton, and Waynesville. At Charlotte, the lecture was given under the auspices of the Southern Sociological Congress, which, with its staff of health and social workers, was making a survey of the community.

An important provision in the law as passed is the annual appropriation of \$3000 for the use of the State Board of Health in making the provisions of the act effective. Among other things, this has made possible the free distribution to physicians and midwives of prophylactic outfits containing silver nitrate solution to be used in the eyes of the new-born. The administration of this treatment is now compulsory under the law, by the observance of which it is expected that a marked reduction in cases of infantile blindness will be apparent in ensuing years.

### SOUTHERN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Immediately following the campaign in North Carolina your Field Secretary proceeded to Atlanta, Georgia, where he attended the tenth annual session of the Southern Medical Association, and as part of the program of the Section on Public Health, read a paper on "Legislation for the Prevention of Blindness, as Obtaining in the Territory of the Southern Medical Association." This paper was subsequently printed in the *Southern Medical Journal*.

While in Atlanta, at the request of Dr. Edward T. Ware, President, an illustrated lecture on "Prevention of Blindness" was given before the students of Fisk University.



## MINNESOTA

In October, 1916, the Minnesota State Board of Health, Dr. H. M. Bracken, Secretary, adopted regulations for the prevention of infantile blindness.\*

Three of the largest county medical societies in Minnesota had previously requested the Board to pass such regulations. To give them the effect of law, only the signature of the State's Attorney General was required. There appeared to be a certain amount of opposition, largely emanating from one organization whose members objected to the regulations as effecting a "restraint upon personal liberty," in that they required the universal use of a specified prophylactic for ophthalmia neonatorum. These objectors were represented at the public hearing, which was called for the discussion of the matter, and at the invitation of the State Board of Health your Field Secretary appeared at this hearing in behalf of the regulations as adopted.

Representatives from a number of county medical societies likewise appeared in behalf of the regulations, and at the close of the hearing Hon. Lyndon A. Smith, State Attorney General, signed the draft, thereby providing the legal approval necessary for the enforcement of the measure. Since that action was taken, however, the 1917 session of the State Legislature modified the regulations to the extent of including a clause whereby parents may decide as to whether or not the prophylactic shall be used. In case they are opposed to its use, a written notice to that effect must be given to the attending physician. Free prophylactic outfits are now distributed to physicians and midwives in Minnesota, the expense therefor being met by the State Board of Health.

Subsequent to the close of the hearing referred to above your Field Secretary made a month's trip throughout the state of Minnesota, fulfilling speaking engagements which had been arranged by the State Board of Health, the Public Health Department of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, local health officials, and social organizations. The following cities and towns were visited: Minneapolis, Winona, Wabasha, Lake City, Hastings, Northfield, Faribault, Mankato, Worthington,

\* See Appendix, pages 45 and 46.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Sleepy Eye, St. Cloud, Little Falls, Detroit, Moorhead, Crookston, Thief River Falls, Fergus Falls, Sauk Center, Moose Lake, Cloquet, Hibbing, Eveleth, Virginia, Big Falls, Anoka, Excelsior, and Stillwater. This campaign was concluded December 23, 1916.

### SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, with various other national organizations, and the United States Public Health Service, accepted the invitation of the Southern Sociological Congress to send a representative who should cooperate in the educational efforts of its second extension campaign. Community surveys were to be made in a number of the chief cities of Georgia and Florida. Correspondence with health officials in both of these states had previously developed the possibility of starting a prevention of blindness movement in each, which it was hoped would result in legislative enactments similar to those which have been secured in other states. Because of the apparent possibility of coordinating our work with the general aims of the Southern Sociological Congress, we were the more willing to undertake the mutual effort. However, following the Augusta Conference, held February 1 to 9, 1917, the Extension Campaign of the Congress was postponed until April 15th, as for one reason or another some of the original plans had failed to develop satisfactorily. Because of the international situation, representatives from certain organizations were being held back, and finally, upon the declaration of war by the United States Government, it was deemed best to postpone the Extension Campaign indefinitely. For its successful development large financial expenditure was necessary for the transportation of the private car used by the Congress, for the shipment, handling, and display of its unusually large series of health exhibits, and for the multitude of other expenses incident to such an undertaking. The management, in view of existing conditions, felt that indefinite postponement of the campaign was the wisest solution of the matter.

During the conference held in Augusta, however, your Field Secretary had the opportunity to address nine meetings, and shortly thereafter two additional meetings at Savannah.

## GEORGIA

Immediately following the decision which terminated the campaign of the Southern Sociological Congress, your Field Secretary proceeded with the intensive effort for prevention of blindness legislation in Georgia. Conferences were held with various officials of the Georgia Medical Association and the State Board of Health—these resulting in the preparation of a bill indorsed by the Medical Association and presented for enactment to the 1917 session of the State Legislature.

The bill was strongly indorsed, but nevertheless suffered the fate of many other bills in not being reached on the calendar before adjournment. The initial effort has, however, been accomplished, and with the assurance of further prosecution of the endeavor, which has come from influential organizations (medical and other) of Georgia, it is hoped that the bill may become law during the 1918 session of the State Legislature.

## FLORIDA

Coincident with the primary effort in Georgia a short trip was made to Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Tallahassee, Florida, in the hope of arousing interest which might result in similar legislative enactment in that state. Various local conditions militated against any hopes for successful accomplishment there, at the time, and postponement of immediate effort was deemed advisable by the state health officials.

## INDUSTRIAL EYE ACCIDENTS

During the past year the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness has undertaken, more actively than in any previous year, the accomplishment of educational effort for the reduction of preventable eye injuries in the industries. In this work it has coöperated to the extent of its ability with the National Safety Council, the American Museum of Safety, State Departments of Labor, State Insurance Commissions, and various other official and unofficial organizations working for the safety of industrial operatives. Cause for our activity in this field is

sufficiently explained by the following statements, which, although impossible to verify for complete accuracy, nevertheless are considered by statisticians of authority to approximate the true conditions:

1. Of the 2,000,000 annual non-fatal accidents in industrial occupations, about 200,000 (10 per cent.) are accidents to the eyes.
2. Approximately 15,000 persons in the United States are blind today as the result of accidental injury of this nature.
3. The maintenance of these blinded artisans during the remainder of their lives will cost nearly ten million dollars, an expense which will fall upon relatives, the community, or the state.
4. The actual economic loss cannot be estimated, and the loss to the unfortunate persons whose eyesight has been destroyed is least of all a matter of dollars and cents.

## EXHIBIT ON EYE ACCIDENTS IN THE INDUSTRIES

In the Second Annual Report mention was made of the completion of a new exhibit on "Eye Accidents in the Industries." As will be noted from the Secretary's report (page 14, section on "Exhibits"), these new panels have been in use during a very considerable portion of the year. But there has been a much larger accomplishment effected in the use of this educational material through reproducing the original panels in a series of five black and white posters, each one of which is approximately 18 inches by 33 inches in size. These posters were prepared especially for bulletin board use, and have been widely distributed during the past fourteen (14) months.

In all, about 50,000 sets of reproductions have been used to date. The National Safety Council reproduced the set in an edition of 15,000; the United States Steel Corporation ordered a special printing of 2500 sets; the Department of Labor and Industries of Pennsylvania reproduced certain of the panels in an edition of about 25,000. Through various other individuals, corporations, and official bodies the orders for these posters have far exceeded our expectations. They have been viewed by approximately 4,000,000 American and Canadian workmen.

## USE OF THE EXHIBIT BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONS

Special efforts for the reduction of eye accidents in their respective states have been made this year by the following:

1. State Board of Health of Alabama.
2. State Department of Labor and Industries of Minnesota.
3. State Insurance Commission of Ohio.
4. State Department of Labor and Industries of Pennsylvania.
5. State Insurance Commission of Utah.
6. State Insurance Commission of Washington.
7. State Insurance Commission of Wisconsin.

Various methods are being followed by the above official bodies in bringing to the attention of industrialists who report eye accidents the needlessness of the occurrence of many such accidents, and the possibilities of prevention. By five of the state organizations mentioned a special letter is now being sent out to every industrialist who reports an eye accident. With it there is sent in each instance a coin-card furnished by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. This combination of letter and coin-card has produced a large number of requests for the exhibit. (The fifty cents which is charged for single sets of the exhibit was imposed merely to help pay the original cost of building the exhibit, and reproducing the panels in poster form. The cost was approximately one thousand dollars. In quantity lots the price asked for the posters is scaled down very considerably, and where no appropriation is available for the purchase of the posters, they have been given free.)

In Utah, in addition to such a letter as is sent in Minnesota, the State Insurance Commission, in December, 1917, circularized its entire list of industrialists who are carrying compensation insurance (about 1500 in all), bringing to their attention the number of eye accidents which have occurred in that state during a recent period, and urging them to put forth every effort for a material reduction in the number during the coming twelve months. With the letter, the coin-card above referred to is included, and attention drawn to the educational possibilities in the display of the National Committee's posters on eye accidents before groups of workmen.



### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Similar publicity has been provided in much the same way in other states mentioned, except in Pennsylvania, where, as previously stated, the Department of Labor and Industries reproduced the exhibit in poster form and sent it out as a part of their regular bulletin service to the industrialists of that state. The problem which confronts the state of Pennsylvania is indicated by the following figures:

For the calendar year 1916 there were 251,438 accidents reported in that state. Of this number 20,665 were eye accidents. The total number of eyes lost was 332, and the total amount of compensation paid or payable for the loss of eyes or injuries to eyes was \$268,889.

### THE BUFFALO STUDY

Upon the completion of his study of eye hazards and eye protection in representative industries of Buffalo, Mr. Thomas P. Bradshaw submitted his report to the Committee early in November, 1916. The findings have been included in the Committee's publication No. 12, entitled, "Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations," published by the Committee in November, 1917.

### PUBLICATIONS ON EYE ACCIDENTS IN THE INDUSTRIES

In February, 1917, your Field Secretary prepared for *Safety Engineering*, a class journal for the safety engineer and accident preventist, an article descriptive of the Committee's new exhibit on eye accidents, and suggested methods whereby the exhibit might be used to most advantage.

In October, 1917, at the request of the National Safety Council, a "shop talk" was prepared on Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations, for use at meetings of foremen and workmen. This lecture is, in fact, but a brief synopsis of the text matter of publication No. 12, described in the foregoing section.

Publication No. 12, "Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations," is one upon which your Field Secretary has been working during the past two years. It is a compilation of typical cases and conditions covering the chief hazards to eyesight as found in the

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

industries of the United States, with recommendations for safe practice. The book is the most comprehensive document yet published by the Committee, and it is hoped will serve a useful purpose.

As stated in the preceding section, much of the laboratory work was accomplished in Buffalo, New York, where, at the invitation of a large group of persons interested in civic conditions, the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness made an investigation of eye protection in seventy leading industries in that typical American city.

Through the courtesy of the United States Steel Corporation the Committee has been permitted to reproduce extracts from a new motion-picture film entitled, "The Reason Why," which portrays in a most admirable way many of the chief industrial hazards in the steel industry. Many of these are eye hazards, so that it has been possible to make up a reel of more than 1000 feet in length, depicting most graphically many of the dangers to eyesight which employees in the steel industry face in their daily work.

### WAR SERVICE

Within a short time after the United States Government had declared war on Germany the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness offered its services and resources to the Federal Government through the Council of National Defense. The past six months have given evidence that the Committee's services could be used to best advantage for the present in providing speakers for a series of educational lectures in the army camps on the general subject, "Conservation of Vision." This course of lectures has been indorsed by Surgeon-General Gorgas, of the United States Army, and by the Sub-Committee on Ophthalmology, General Medical Board, Council of National Defense. Through the courtesy and facilities provided by the Young Men's Christian Association the bookings for these lectures are now being arranged, the first of them having been given by your Field Secretary at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York, early in December.\*

\* Since the above statement was written, the Field Secretary has been given leave of absence to do service in France and has gone abroad.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Cognizant of the special need for conservation of vision efforts among enlisted men, Dr. F. Park Lewis, Vice-President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, introduced a resolution before the Ophthalmological Section of the American Medical Association at its annual meeting, June, 1917, which urgently directed the attention of the Federal Government's medical authorities to the dangers from trachoma and the need for careful examination of every applicant for enlistment.

Shortly thereafter a special publication was issued by the United States Public Health Service, to which the attention of every medical inspector of recruits was directed. Not only are the physicians urged to make most careful examination for this disease, but "an applicant who is found to be suffering with a well-marked trachoma," the publication reads, "should not be immediately rejected, but should be given treatment and his trachoma cured. He can then be examined again to determine whether he has resulting visual defects sufficient to cause his rejection. In this way a case of contagious disease will be eliminated, and probably a good soldier saved."

This disease has been responsible for the rejection of a very considerable percentage of applicants for enlistment, especially in certain southern states, where it has been prevalent for many years. In certain of the European armies, especially among the French, it has become a veritable scourge.

Once in the army, the enlisted man is given careful supervision looking to the prevention or cure of any communicable disease of this nature. The record of the United States Navy in regard to trachoma cases is so remarkable that special mention is given here of a report which we have recently received from Admiral William C. Braisted, Surgeon General, Department of the Navy:

YEAR	STRENGTH OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS	CASES OF TRACHOMA
1912.....	61,897	3
1913.....	65,926	8
1914.....	67,141	8
1915.....	68,075	31
1916.....	69,294	12

This record shows an extremely small occurrence of the disease among the enlisted men in the Navy and Marine Corps.



## LECTURES

During the fourteen (14) months' period reported on herein, your Field Secretary has given 67 lectures to audiences totaling approximately 15,000 persons. Most of these lectures have been given in connection with state educational or legislative campaigns.

## ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

The following articles prepared by your Field Secretary have appeared:

Excerpts from an article, Saving the Sight of School Children, *Literary Digest*, December 23, 1916.

Saving Sight in the Industries, *Safety Engineering*, January, 1917.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum as a Cause of Blindness in Georgia, *Georgia Medical Journal*, April, 1917.

Digest of Prevention of Blindness Laws in the Territory of the Southern Medical Association, *Southern Medical Journal*, November, 1917.

Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations, *American Blacksmith*.  
Saving the Sight of Workmen, Shop Lecture for Foremen and Workmen, Publications of the National Safety Council.

For the year 1918 the outlook is promising. There are but few states where legislative sessions will be held; in fact, five in all, and in three of these laws for the prevention of infantile blindness already obtain. In two others, however, it is our present expectation to continue the effort in the hope that the close of the next year may not fail to find at least some addition to the states which have already made some legal provision for the prevention of blindness in their future citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

GORDON L. BERRY,  
*Field Secretary.*

# REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, INC.,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1916, TO DECEMBER 31, 1917

The New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness was, so far as is known, the first committee composed of medical and lay members to undertake a definite program for the prevention of needless blindness. It began its activities in New York State in 1908, but as its work became known and appreciated it received calls for advice and assistance from practically every state in the Union. These calls were given a ready response, but, as the horizon widened, the Committee realized that a single state organization was unequal to the task of national coöperation.

In 1915, therefore, a National Committee was formed, and the New York State Committee became a standing committee of the larger body, to carry on, in accordance with its original purpose, intensive work within the state.

Since the activities of the National Committee cover all states, the general work of its standing committee is included in the foregoing report. It would, therefore, be but a repetition again to outline the undertakings of the State Committee.

It must be borne in mind, however, that in a report of a national body covering the work of 48 states it is impossible to give more than a general account of the results accomplished by any one state. Because of the importance of New York State and its great pioneer work in preventing blindness, the Committee, therefore, issues a separate report in which will be found a detailed account of its activities.

This report shows intensive educational work in the state for preventing blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum, wood-alcohol poisoning, trachoma, and industrial accidents. It urges the continuance and further development of medical school inspection, and offers lectures, slides, exhibits, and literature as mediums for acquainting the people of the state not only with conditions as they are, but as they should be.

A copy of this report will be sent to any one interested, upon request to the Secretary.

WINIFRED HATHAWAY,  
*Secretary.*

# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

OCTOBER 1, 1916, TO DECEMBER 31, 1917

## RECEIPTS

Balance on hand September 30, 1916.....	\$246.83	
From Treasurer on order of Executive Committee ...	22,375.00	
		<u>\$22,621.83</u>

## EXPENDITURES

Salaries and wages.....	\$11,608.25	
Traveling expenses.....	1,120.15	
Publications, etc.....	5,570.87	
Office expenses.....	3,626.10	
Office equipment.....	118.39	
Miscellaneous.....	24.00	
Balance on hand December 31, 1917.....	554.07	
		<u>\$22,621.83</u>

EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE,  
*Managing Director.*

The following is an extract from the report of the Auditor appointed by the President to audit the accounts of the Committee:

February 13, 1918.

In compliance with instructions, we have audited the books and records of the Managing Director's office for the period October 1, 1916, to December 31, 1917.

After examination of all the vouchers and cancelled bank checks, together with the Treasurer's Statement, we found same to be in agreement with your book record of same.

\* \* \* \* \*

We certify that the annexed statement of the Managing Director is in accordance with the books, and that the balance of the Cash Book is in agreement with the Bank Statement at December 31, 1917.

Respectfully submitted,

METROPOLITAN AUDIT COMPANY,  
By MORGAN G. WAKE,  
*Certified Public Accountant.*

# TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FIFTEEN MONTHS

OCTOBER 1, 1916, TO DECEMBER 31, 1917

## RECEIPTS

Balance on hand October 1, 1916.....	\$3,633.12	
Russell Sage Foundation.....	7,500.00*	
Rockefeller Foundation.....	10,000.00†	
Memberships.....	2,129.00	
Donations.....	4,142.50	
Sales of Publications, slides, etc.....	1,377.44	
Interest on bank balances.....	133.86	
Refunds, etc.....	2.11	
		<hr/>
		\$28,918.03

## EXPENDITURES

Paid to Managing Director.....	\$22,375.00	
Balance on hand December 31, 1917.....	6,543.03	
		<hr/>
		\$28,918.03

GEORGE BLAGDEN,

*Treasurer.*

\* Includes grant for one year and a half.

† Includes grant for two years.

**"BABIES' SORE EYES" is a dangerous disease**

If the eyelids are red and swollen  
If the eyes discharge

**SEND FOR THE DOCTOR AT ONCE**



© 1917 National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc. 130 East 228 Street, New York, N. Y.

Special "Drops" prevent the danger from  
**"BABIES' SORE EYES"**



The drops will not hurt the baby's eyes  
**BUT**  
If they are not used, the Baby **MAY GO BLIND**

© 1917 National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc. 130 East 228 Street, New York, N. Y.



**IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?**  
Don't forget the next question:  
**"HAVE YOU PUT THE DROPS INTO THE BABY'S EYES?"**

© 1917 National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc. 130 East 228 Street, New York, N. Y.

THREE OF THE FIVE POSTERS OF THE NEW EXHIBIT ON BABIES' SORE EYES

Size of each poster, 20 inches by 26 inches

# DON'T LISTEN



PEOPLE TELL YOU

"It's only a cold in the eyes"

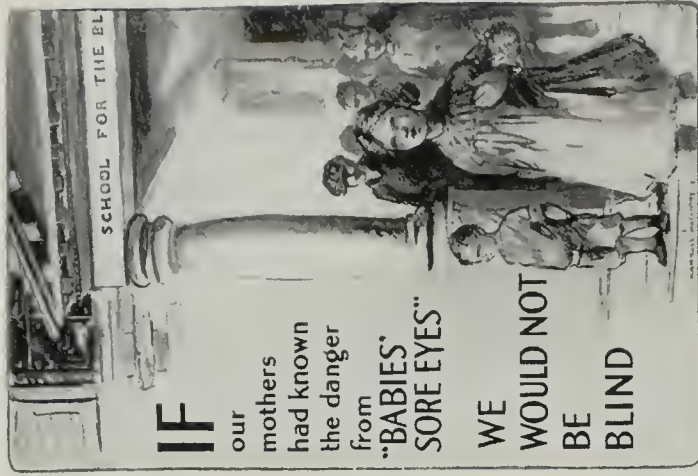
"Use a poultice of tea leaves," etc.

THIS IS DANGEROUS ADVICE

NO HOME REMEDIES WILL CURE

"BABIES' SORE EYES"

4 National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc., 130 East 22d Street, New York, N. Y.



IF  
our  
mothers  
had known  
the danger  
from  
"BABIES'  
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## APPENDIX

### NORTH CAROLINA'S OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM LAW

*AN ACT to prevent blindness in infancy, designating certain powers and duties and otherwise providing for the enforcement of this act.*

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. Any inflammation, swelling, or unusual redness in either one or both eyes of any infant, either apart from or together with any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of such infant, independent of the nature of the infection, if any, occurring any time within two weeks after the birth of such infant, shall be known as "inflammation of the eyes of the newborn" (ophthalmia neonatorum).

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of any physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home, or hospital of any nature, parent, relative, and any persons attendant on or assisting in any way whatsoever, any infant or the mother of any infant at childbirth or any time, within two weeks after childbirth, knowing the condition, hereinabove defined, to exist, immediately to report such fact, as the State Board of Health shall direct, to the local health officer of the county, city, town, village, or whatever other political division there may be, within which the infant or the mother of any such infant may reside. For such services the attending physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home or hospital shall receive from the State Treasurer a fee of fifty cents. In the event of there being no health officer in the city, village, or town in which the infant resides, midwives shall immediately report the condition to some qualified practitioner of medicine, and thereupon withdraw from the case, except as she may act under a physician's instructions.

On receipt of such report the health officer, or the physician

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

notified by a midwife where no health officer exists, shall immediately give to the parents or person having charge of such infant a warning of the dangers to the eye or eyes of said infant, and shall for indigent cases provide the necessary treatment at the expense of the said county, city, village, or town.

SEC. 3. It shall be unlawful for any physician or midwife practising midwifery in the State of North Carolina to neglect or otherwise fail to instill or have instilled, immediately upon its birth, in the eyes of the new-born babe two drops of a solution prescribed or furnished by the North Carolina State Board of Health.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the local health officer:

1. To investigate or to have investigated each case as filed with him in pursuance with the law, and any other such case as may come to his attention.

2. To report all cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new-born and the result of all such investigations as the State Board of Health shall direct.

3. To conform to such other rules and regulations as the State Board of Health shall promulgate for his further guidance.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the North Carolina State Board of Health:

1. To enforce the provisions of this act.

2. To promulgate such rules and regulations as shall, under this act, be necessary for the purpose of this act, and such as the State Board of Health may deem necessary for the further and proper guidance of local health officers.

3. To provide for the gratuitous distribution of the scientific prophylactic for inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, as designated in section three, together with proper directions for the use and administration thereof to all physicians and midwives as may be engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirth.

4. To publish and promulgate such further advice and information concerning the dangers of inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, and the necessity for prompt and effective treatment.

5. To furnish copies of this law to all physicians and mid-

wives as may be engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirth.

6. To keep a proper record of any and all cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, as shall be filed in the office of the State Board of Health, in pursuance with this law, and as may come to their attention in any way, and to constitute such records a part of the biennial report to the Governor and the Legislature.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of physicians, midwives, or other persons in attendance upon a case of childbirth in a maternity home, hospital, public or charitable institution, in every infant's eyes, within two hours after birth, to use the prophylactic against inflammation of the eyes of the new-born specified in section three, and to make record of the prophylactic used. It shall also be the duty of such institution to maintain such records of cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new-born as the State Board of Health shall direct.

SEC. 7. Whoever being a physician, surgeon, midwife, obstetrician, nurse, manager or person in charge of a maternity home or hospital, parent, relative, or person attendant upon or assisting at the birth of any infant violates any of the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars; and if possessed of the required amount of property, subject to suit by the parent or guardian of the child for damages resulting to the child; and if such a suit shall be brought, the establishment of the fact that the physician or midwife did not place the drops in the child's eyes within two hours of its birth shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the physician's or midwife's responsibility for the injury of the disease to the eye or eyes of the child. It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney to prosecute all violations of this act.

SEC. 8. All midwives who now practise midwifery in North Carolina, other than regularly registered physicians, shall register, without fee, their names and addresses with the Secretary of the North Carolina State Board of Health on or before the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, in order that the prophylactic solution and necessary instructions may be furnished them. After the aforesaid date, no person, physi-

cian, or midwife shall practise midwifery in North Carolina until at least ten days have elapsed following the registration of the name and address of the person who intends to engage in the practice of midwifery, and in this period of ten days elapsing between the registration and beginning of the practice of midwifery by the registered person, the State Board of Health shall furnish the necessary directions and solution to the physician or midwife for compliance with this act.

SEC. 9. Any physician or midwife failing to register their names and addresses with the North Carolina State Board of Health, as required in section eight of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of from ten dollars (\$10) to fifty dollars (\$50).

SEC. 10. The sum of three thousand dollars (\$3000) shall be annually appropriated for the use of the State Board of Health in enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this act. Any and all necessary and legitimate expenses that may be incurred in prosecuting a case under this act shall, on proper showing, be met by the State Board of Health out of this appropriation. In addition thereto all fines and penalties recovered hereunder shall be paid into the State Treasury and shall constitute a special fund for the use and purposes of the State Board of Health as herein enacted.

SEC. 11. Every health officer shall furnish a copy of this act to each person who is known to him to act as midwife or nurse in the county, city, or town for which such health officer is appointed, and the Secretary of State shall cause a sufficient number of copies of this act to be printed and supply the same to the health officer of the county, city, or town and the State Board of Health on application.

All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the seventh day of March, 1917.

## MINNESOTA: REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

1. *Ophthalmia Neonatorum Defined.*—Any condition of the eye or eyes of an infant, independent of the nature of the infection, in which there is any inflammation, swelling, or redness in either one or both eyes of any such infant, either apart from, or together with, any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of any such infant within two weeks of the birth of such infant, shall be known as ophthalmia neonatorum.

2. *Duties of Physicians, Midwives, and Others.*—It shall be the duty of any physician or midwife in attendance on, or in charge of, a confinement case to treat the eyes of every new-born babe with a 1 or 2 per cent. solution of silver nitrate, followed by a normal salt solution.

3. It shall be the duty of any midwife immediately to call a legally licensed physician in every case in which symptoms of inflammation develop in one or both eyes of infants under her care.

4. It shall be the duty of any physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home, or hospital of any nature, parent, relative, and any person or persons attendant on, or assisting in any way whatsoever, any woman at childbirth, or attendant on, or assisting in any way whatsoever, any infant, or the mother of any infant, at any time within two weeks after childbirth, knowing the condition hereinabove defined to exist, and within eight hours thereafter to report such fact, as the State Board of Health shall direct, to the local health officer of the city, village, or township within which the infant is cared for.

5. *Duties of Maternity Homes, Physicians, etc.*—It shall be the duty of all maternity homes, and any and all hospitals, etc., to maintain such records of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum as the State Board of Health shall direct. It shall be the duty of any and all maternity homes, hospitals, public and charitable institutions, and all other institutions having the care of any infant, in addition to reporting as hereinbefore provided, to employ a licensed physician in the treatment of the conditions described in Regulation 1.

6. *Duties of the Local Health Officer.*—It shall be the duty of the local health officer:

a. To investigate each case as filed with him in pursuance with the law, and any other such case as may come to his attention.

b. To report all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, and the result of such investigations as he shall make, as the State Board of Health shall direct.

c. To conform to such other rules and regulations as the State Board of Health shall promulgate for his further guidance.

### ILLINOIS LAW RELATING TO WOOD ALCOHOL

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled, "*An Act to revise the law in relation to criminal jurisprudence*," approved March 27, 1874, in force July 1, 1874, as subsequently amended, by adding thereto a new section to be known as section 63a.

No person, firm or corporation shall have in possession, sell, or offer for sale, any food or drink which contains methyl alcohol (commonly known as wood alcohol), or any preparation or mixture of any kind whatsoever containing methyl alcohol, which shall be intended for internal use by man. Methyl alcohol by any name, or any preparation or mixture containing methyl alcohol, shall, when offered for sale, sold, delivered or used, be conspicuously labeled "Wood Alcohol," or "This preparation contains wood alcohol," and the word "Poison," together with a skull and cross-bones. The word "Poison" and the skull and cross-bones shall be printed in red ink, and shall be at least one-quarter of an inch in height.

Any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than five dollars (\$5.00), nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), for each such offense.

### CALIFORNIA'S "ROLLER TOWEL" LAW

AN ACT to prevent the keeping of towels for common use in public places and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions thereof.

SECTION 1. No person, firm, or corporation conducting, operating, having charge of, or control of, any hotel, restaurant, fac-



### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

tory, store, barber shop, office building, school, public hall, railroad train, railway station, boat, or any other public place, room, or conveyance, shall maintain or keep in or about any such place any towel for common use.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of this act the term "common use," when applied to a towel, shall be defined as its use by, or for, more than one person, without its being laundered by a process involving exposure to boiling water or steam between consecutive uses of such towel; provided that the State Board of Health may by resolution prescribe other acceptable methods of sterilization which may be used in place of the methods specified in this act.



### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to the NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
BLINDNESS, INC., a corporation created  
under the laws of the State of New York,  
the sum of. .... Dollars  
for its corporate purposes.

